

NEWS CLIPS

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Created by the Public Information Office – February 25, 2021

MCPD charge four men after robbing seven 7-Eleven stores, one gas station

by: [Rohan Mattu](#)

Posted: Feb 18, 2021 / 01:20 PM EST / Updated: Feb 18, 2021 / 01:40 PM EST



From left to right: Crenshaw, Singletary, Harried, McKinnon

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, Md. (WDVM) — Montgomery County Police say four men have been charged in connection with a string of convenience store robberies in January in which they stole cigarettes and lottery tickets.

The suspects cashed the stolen tickets at the same Landover gas station in multiple robberies, leading to their arrest.

Police say Joseph Crenshaw, 57, Emanuel Harried, 26, Willie McKinnon, 55 and Prince Singletary, 35, robbed six 7-Eleven stores and an Exxon gas station from Jan. 12 to Jan. 26.

Crenshaw, Harried and Singletary are from DC, police say. McKinnon is from Oxon Hill, Md.

Below are the robberies in order, as described by MCPD:

- Jan. 12 – Two suspects entered the 7-Eleven at 10524 Connecticut Avenue in Kensington and stole large quantities of cigarettes and lottery tickets. One employee was assaulted. The suspects fled the area in a dark-colored vehicle. Thirty minutes later, several of the stolen lottery tickets were cashed at a gas station located in Landover.
- Jan. 15 – Two suspects entered the 7-Eleven located at 11421 Rockville Pike in Rockville. The suspects told employees to leave the store. The employees fled the store and the suspects stole large quantities of cigarettes and lottery tickets. An hour later, the suspects cashed several of the stolen lottery tickets at the same gas station in Landover from Jan 12.
- Jan. 16 – Two suspects entered the 7-Eleven located at 3507 University Boulevard in Kensington. The suspects stole large quantities of cigarettes, lottery tickets, and money. The suspects then fled the store. An hour later, the suspects attempted to cash the stolen lottery tickets at the Landover gas station but were unsuccessful. The next morning, the suspects attempted to cash the stolen lottery tickets again at that same Landover gas station and were again unsuccessful.

- January 18 – Two suspects entered the Exxon gas station located at 448 N. Frederick Avenue in Gaithersburg and stole large quantities of cigarettes and lottery tickets. The suspects fled the area in a dark-colored vehicle that was driven by a third suspect.
- January 23 – Two suspects entered the 7-Eleven located at 405 N. Frederick Avenue in Gaithersburg and stole large quantities of cigarettes and lottery tickets.
- January 24 – Two suspects entered the 7-Eleven located at 650 University Boulevard East in the Silver Spring area and stole lottery tickets, cigarettes, and currency from the business.
- January 26 – One suspect entered the 7-Eleven located at 3507 University Boulevard West in Kensington and stole a large number of cigarettes. This 7-Eleven did not have any lottery tickets on display at the front counter.

Police say during the investigation, they obtained a fingerprint match of one suspect, McKinnon, from some of the cashed lottery tickets. Police obtained a warrant for his arrest Jan. 28.

On Jan. 30, police say two suspects entered the 7-Eleven located at 7980 Georgia Avenue in Silver Spring and again stole cigarettes and lottery tickets. After the robbery police followed the suspect's vehicle to the Landover gas station where the lottery tickets were being cashed.

Police identified the front passenger as McKinnon, the driver as Harried and the back passenger as Crenshaw. The stolen items were recovered from the car and the three were arrested.

McKinnon is being held without bond and is charged with two counts of armed robbery and two counts of first-degree assault. Harried is charged with attempted theft and was released after posting a \$2,500 bond. Crenshaw is charged with theft and was released after posting a \$1,000 bond.

On Feb. 16, Singletary was arrested on the strength of a Montgomery County arrest warrant. Singletary is being held without bond and is charged with armed robbery and assault-related offenses.

4 Men Charged In String Of Montgomery County Convenience Store Robberies

By [CBS Baltimore Staff](#) February 18, 2021 at 2:44 pm

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, Md. (WJZ) — Four men have been charged following a string or more than half a dozen convenience store robberies last month, the Montgomery County Police Department said Thursday.

Three of the four men charged — 57-year-old Joseph Crenshaw, 26-year-old Emanuel Harried and 35-year-old Prince Singletary — are from Washington, D.C., while the fourth man, 55-year-old Willie McKinnon, is from Oxon Hill. Singletary and McKinnon are being held without bond, while Crenshaw and Harried were released after posting bond, police said.



Left to right: Joseph Crenshaw, Emanuel Harried, Willie McKinnon and Prince Singletary. Credit: Montgomery County Police

During seven of the eight robberies, two suspects went into the convenience stores — all but one of which were 7-Elevens — and took cigarettes and lottery tickets, police said. In one robbery, only one suspect went inside and did not take lottery tickets. Shortly after several of the robberies, the tickets were cashed or attempted to be cashed at a Landover gas station.

Police used fingerprints on one of the cashed lottery tickets to identify McKinnon. After the final robbery on January 30, police followed McKinnon, Harried and Crenshaw to the Landover gas station and arrested them. Singletary was arrested on Tuesday, police said.

The robberies occurred between January 12 and January 30 at a gas station and convenience stores in Kensington, Rockville, Gaithersburg and Silver Spring.

Police: Md. man offered pizzas for sale then inappropriately touched girl

[Jack Moore](#)

February 18, 2021, 4:17 PM

A man selling leftover pizzas inappropriately touched an 11-year-old girl at a laundromat in Aspen Hill, Maryland, earlier this week, Montgomery County police said.

Julio Portillo-Hernandez, 56, of Silver Spring, was arrested Tuesday and charged with two counts of third-degree sexual offense. He is being held on an \$8,000 bond.

Police said it happened about 9:20 p.m. Tuesday, when Portillo-Hernandez walked into the laundromat in the 13600 block of Georgia Avenue to sell leftover pizzas from the restaurant where he worked.

Portillo-Hernandez approached the girl's mother and after she refused his offer of a pizza, he "walked away from the mother and inappropriately touched the victim," police said Thursday.

The mother saw Portillo-Hernandez touch her daughter and immediately called 911, police said. When officers arrived, police said they found Portillo-Hernandez still in the area and arrested him.

Investigators believe there may be other victims. Anyone with information is asked to call the department's Special Victims Investigations Division at (240) 773-5400.

Pizza restaurant employee charged with inappropriately touching girl

BY DAN SCHERE | FEBRUARY 18, 2021 | 6:16 PM

Montgomery County police have charged a pizza restaurant worker with inappropriately touching an 11-year-old girl at a laundromat.

Julio Portillo-Hernandez, 56, of the 3000 block of Hewitt Avenue in Aspen Hill, went to a laundromat in the 13600 block of Georgia Ave. just after 9 p.m. on Tuesday, police said in a press release on Thursday.

Portillo-Hernandez was wearing a shirt with the name of a pizza restaurant where he works.

Police said Portillo-Hernandez offered to sell discounted pizzas to customers, including to a woman and her 11-year-old daughter. When the mother declined the offer, he walked away from her and inappropriately touched her daughter, police said.

Police said the mother saw the incident and called 911. Officers arrested Portillo-Hernandez near the laundromat.

Police said Portillo-Hernandez works at a restaurant in Aspen Hill and often sells the pizzas at discounted prices at surrounding businesses. They did not identify the name of the laundromat or the pizza restaurant where Portillo-Hernandez works.

Officer Rick Goodale, a police spokesman, wrote in a text message to Bethesda Beat on Friday that Portillo-Hernandez works at a Domino's Pizza.

Portillo-Hernandez has been charged with two counts of third-degree sex offense, according to court records. No court date or attorney information was listed Thursday afternoon.

Four men charged in connection with eight thefts at Montgomery County convenience stores

BY DAN SCHERE | FEBRUARY 18, 2021 | 6:27 PM

Montgomery County police said they have charged four men in connection with eight thefts at convenience stores, including one place that was hit twice.

Police described at least two of the cases as robberies. In other incidents, it is not clear whether the men confronted employees at the convenience stores.

Three men from Washington, D.C., and one from Prince George's County were charged.

Willie O. McKinnon, 55, of Oxon Hill, and Prince J. Singletary, 35 of D.C., are each facing armed robbery and assault charges.

Joseph A. Crenshaw, 57, was charged with theft and Emanuel Harried, 26, both of D.C., was charged with attempted theft.

Police said in a press release on Thursday that the four men were involved in the eight thefts, which happened between Jan. 12 and 30.

Police said the four men stole "large quantities" of cigarettes and lottery tickets. In some cases, they cashed the lottery tickets or tried to.

Police said the thefts occurred:

- 12, when two men went into 7-Eleven at 10524 Connecticut Ave. in Kensington and assaulted a worker. The men stole cigarettes and lottery tickets before fleeing in a vehicle and cashing the tickets at a gas station in Prince George's County.
- 15, when two men went into the 7-Eleven at 11421 Rockville Pike. The men told the employees to leave, and the workers complied, police said. The men took cigarettes and

lottery tickets, fled the store and cashed some of the tickets at the same gas station in Prince George's County an hour later.

- 16, when two men went into the 7-Eleven at 3507 University Blvd. in Kensington. They took cigarettes, lottery tickets and cash before fleeing. Then they tried to cash the tickets at the same Prince George's County gas station on two consecutive days, but were unsuccessful.
- 18, when two men went into the Exxon gas station convenience store at 448 N. Frederick Ave. in Gaithersburg and stole cigarettes and lottery tickets. Then they fled in a vehicle driven by another person.
- 23, when two men went into the 7-Eleven at 405. N. Frederick Ave. in Gaithersburg and stole cigarettes and lottery tickets.
- 24, when two men went into the 7-Eleven at 650 University Blvd. in Silver Spring and stole lottery tickets, cigarettes and money.
- 26, when a man went into the 7-Eleven at 3507 University Blvd. in Kensington and stole cigarettes.

Police did not specify which of the men were involved in each of the thefts.

Police said that after the first seven thefts, detectives obtained fingerprints from one suspect that were on the cashed lottery tickets and identified him as McKinnon on Jan. 28.

On Jan. 30, police said two men went into the 7-Eleven at 7980 Georgia Ave. in Silver Spring and stole cigarettes and lottery tickets. Officers followed the men in their vehicle to the same gas station in Prince George's County, where they arrested Crenshaw, Harried and McKinnon.

Crenshaw and Harried were released from custody after posting bond, police said.

Singletary was arrested on Feb. 16 on a warrant, police said.

Crenshaw has been charged with one count of theft, Harried with one count of attempted theft, McKinnon with two counts each of armed robbery and first-degree assault, and Singletary with one count each of armed robbery and first-degree assault according to court records.

Neither court dates nor attorney information was listed for the suspects as of Thursday afternoon.



Man wounded in shooting; MCPD still investigating

by: [Shennekia Grimshaw](#)

Posted: Feb 18, 2021 / 05:25 PM EST / Updated: Feb 18, 2021 / 10:38 PM EST

GERMANTOWN, Md. (WDVM) — A man was shot in a residential area in Montgomery County on Wednesday night.

Officers responded around 10:30 p.m. to the 12,600 block of Grey Eagle court in Germantown for the report of a shooting. Police say a man was shot and taken to a local hospital. The suspect or suspects have not been arrested.

“He’s an adult male, non-life-threatening injuries, and they don’t believe this is a random event,” said Officer Rebecca Innocenti with the Montgomery County Police Department.

Anyone with information should contact Montgomery County Police.

FEBRUARY 18, 2021 | BY [MARYAM SHAHZAD](#)

DETECTIVES SEARCHING FOR MAN ACCUSED OF VEHICLE DENT REPAIR SCAM IN BETHESDA



Archie Valdo Thompson, 33. Via Montgomery County Police.

Montgomery County Police Department (MCPD) detectives are searching for a man who police say committed a dent repair scam in Bethesda in July and October 2020.

Detectives were granted a warrant for the arrest of Archie Valdo Thompson, age 33, according to an [MCPD statement](#), for “multiple counts of theft and malicious destruction of property, as well as violation of County Code for operating a motor vehicle repair business without a license.” Police say Thompson scammed four victims of about \$1,850 total. He approached people with damage to their vehicles and offered to fix it on the spot for a fee, but either did not repair the vehicle or left it with more damage. MCPD was notified of the scamming incidents after victims began sharing stories and photos on social media; the investigation began in January.

Thompson was driving a white pickup truck during the incidents in July and October 2020, MCPD said, which occurred in commercial parking lots in Bethesda. Victims said he was intimidating, and two victims said he demanded more money after the “repairs” were done than what he had originally asked for, police said. Witnesses said Thompson would often get angry and annoyed if his services were declined, MCPD said.

If you have information about Thompson’s whereabouts, or if you believe you are a victim of his and have not reported it yet to police, MCPD asks you to call detectives at 240-773-6726.

THE BALTIMORE SUN

Maryland lawmakers weigh pulling back curtain on police disciplinary records

By **BRYN STOLE**

BALTIMORE SUN | FEB 19, 2021 AT 6:00 AM

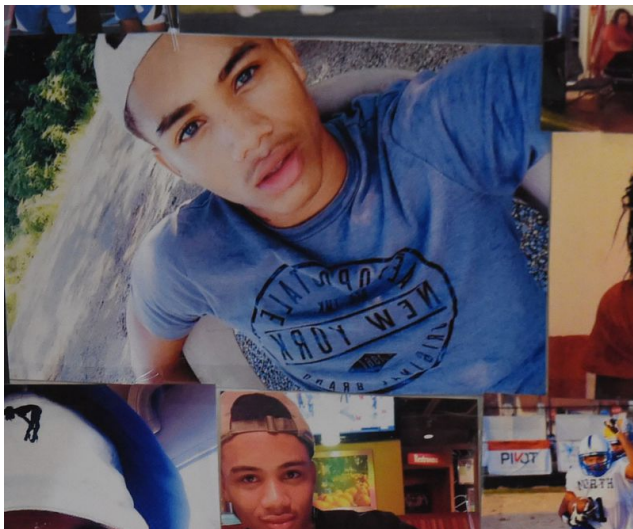
Lawmakers in the Maryland General Assembly are considering opening up internal affairs complaints and disciplinary records of police officers in the state to public scrutiny.

Most complaints against officers and records from police department disciplinary decisions would become accessible using a Maryland Public Information Act request under the proposed “Anton’s Law.” It’s named for Anton Black, a young man [who died in custody](#) on the Eastern Shore in 2018.

A version of the legislation, sponsored by Democratic Sen. Jill P. Carter of Baltimore, won the backing Thursday of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee in a party-line vote.

Carter and other backers said secrecy surrounding complaints against officers — the majority of which are dismissed without any discipline being meted out — has helped erode trust in law enforcement. Giving the public a look at complaints, and how agencies handled them, would allow residents to judge whether law enforcement is adequately policing itself, supporters of the legislation say.

Disclosing disciplinary records might also root out problem officers who’ve collected similar complaints or bounced between departments while avoiding serious discipline, Carter said. Shining a bit of light on the process “helps us achieve a goal of getting integrity into these police forces,” she said Thursday.



The proposed "Anton's Law" honors Anton Black, who died under the weight of three police officers holding him down on the Eastern Shore in 2018. (Kim Hairston / Baltimore Sun)

Police union officials and Republican senators countered the change could erode flagging morale among officers and subject decent ones to smear campaigns in which unfounded accusations are publicized.

The bill would remove a confidentiality shield on disciplinary records, including many, though not all, complaints dismissed by a department's internal process. The bill would also allow the public to find out how — or if — a department punished officers accused of misconduct.

All personnel records of government employees in Maryland, including police disciplinary records and complaints filed against officers, are considered confidential under state law and are broadly exempt from public disclosure.

Under the proposed law, police chiefs and sheriffs could still block the release of records, including materials related to an ongoing criminal investigation. But agencies would need to lay out reasons for those refusals and, as with other public records requests, could be challenged in court.

Previous efforts to open the books on internal affairs records stalled in recent years amid resistance from law enforcement agencies and police unions. Del. Gabriel Acevero, a Montgomery County Democrat, proposed the legislation last year and is again sponsoring the bill in the House of Delegates.

The legislation honors Black, 19, who died in the Caroline County town of Greensboro under the weight of three officers holding him down. One of the officers had nearly 30 use-of-force reports from his career in Delaware. Black's family has struggled to get information about the case, and has advocated for the proposed law.

David Rocah, senior counsel for the ACLU of Maryland, told lawmakers last month that giving the public some access to disciplinary records was “an absolutely necessary first step” toward restoring confidence in law enforcement and rooting out “failures of accountability, either systemically or individually.”

People who file complaints against officers have little ability under the law way to find out how those complaints are handled or whether that officer faced similar prior complaints, Rocah said. “All the chief can say is, ‘Trust me, we did the right thing,’” Rocah said. “That’s not enough to build trust.”



A version of legislation that would open up internal affairs complaints and disciplinary records of police officers in the state to public scrutiny is sponsored by Democratic Sen. Jill P. Carter of Baltimore. It won the backing Thursday of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee in a party-line vote. (Paul W. Gillespie)

When the committee heard testimony last month on the bill, Riverdale Park Police Chief David Morris acknowledged that boosting transparency, accountability and trust in police is an important goal.

“It’s equally important that we protect the officers’ reputations from frivolous-type complaints,” he said.

The proposed law would treat police officers differently from other public employees — and state lawmakers themselves — all of whom would retain the right to keep complaints or disciplinary records confidential, several Republicans argued at a lengthy hearing ahead of Thursday’s vote.

Republicans pressed the committee to include ethics complaints against lawmakers — kept secret unless the General Assembly formally takes action to punish a politician — in the legislation. Keeping it aimed at law enforcement officers, Sen. Michael Hough of Carroll and Frederick counties asserted, suggested “an anti-police agenda.”

Hough said it was “completely hypocritical not to hold ourselves to the same standards.”

Several Democrats expressed tentative support for opening up more personnel and ethics records to public scrutiny, at least in theory. But they dismissed the suggestion as a gambit best handled in separate legislation, and Republican efforts to broaden the bill were shot down on a party-line vote.

Carter noted that a number of other states have long allowed the public some access to internal affairs complaints and disciplinary records.

“There’s been no parade of [horribles] that has occurred as a result of it,” Carter said.



Two restaurant owners followed home, robbed, Montgomery County police say

Author: Matt Pusatory (WUSA9)

Published: 8:59 AM EST February 19, 2021

Updated: 8:59 AM EST February 19, 2021

SILVER SPRING, Md. — Two Asian restaurant owners in the Silver Spring/Takoma Park area were followed home and robbed of money made at their restaurants. The two robberies happened about a month apart, but Montgomery County police detectives believe the two incidents are related.

The first robbery happened on January 7 just before 11 p.m., according to Sergeant Rebecca Innocenti with Montgomery County police. Officers responded to a home for a reported robbery. The victim said she had just gotten home after working at her restaurant in Takoma Park when she was approached by three men. One of the men hit her on the head and stole her purse, which had cash from her restaurant business and her car keys inside.

When a man rushed to help the woman, police say that man had a gun pointed at him, and his wallet stolen.

A month later, on February 7, officers were called to the woman's restaurant in Takoma Park. Someone had stolen her silver SUV while she was working. Investigators believe whoever took the woman's car keys came back to steal her car.

Just nine days later, on February 16 at 9 p.m., Montgomery County officers responded to another reported robbery in 1800 block of Briggs Road. The woman who was robbed told police she was driving home from her restaurant in Silver Spring when she was rear-ended by a silver SUV. The woman told officers that when she got out of her car to inspect the damage, two men got out of the SUV and threw her to the ground. One of the men pointed a gun at her, while the other went into her vehicle and stole her purse, which also included proceeds from her restaurant business.

The two men left in the silver SUV. Police say the first victim's stolen SUV was found the next day, empty, near the area of the second robbery.

Anyone with information about these robberies is asked to call the Major Crimes Division at 240-773- 5070. For those who wish to remain anonymous, Crime Solvers of Montgomery County is offering a reward of up to \$10,000 for any information that leads to the arrest of the suspect(s).

Anonymous tipsters can call [Crime Solvers of Montgomery County](#) toll-free at 1-866-411-TIPS (8477) or [submit a tip online](#) or [via the P3 Tips app](#).

While it's not clear whether these crimes were racially motivated, attacks against the Asian American and Pacific Islander communities across the country have been on the rise since last March.

[Across the DMV](#), the Asian Americans Advancing Justice-AAJC tracked 29 reports of harassment related to the pandemic. The group Stop AAPI Hate has kept a database of reports from close to 3,000 people who have experienced some form of Asian-related hate crime.

In Virginia, Arlington County Police are investigating a string of [burglaries of minority owned businesses](#).

Both Montgomery County Police and Arlington Police advise business owners to stay alert, and vigilant.

Two business owners in Silver Spring, Takoma Park followed, robbed

BY DAN SCHERE | FEBRUARY 19, 2021 | 10:54 AM

Two business owners who operate restaurants in Silver Spring and Takoma Park were robbed in incidents that Montgomery County police said they think are related. In each case, the owners were followed to their homes, police said.

On Jan. 7, a woman who owns a takeout restaurant in Takoma Park got home just before 11 p.m. and was approached by three males, police said in a press release Thursday.

One of the males hit her on the head and took her purse, which had cash and keys. One of the males later pointed a handgun at a male witness and took his wallet.

The three males then fled, police said.

On Feb. 7, officers got a call at 11:03 p.m. for a report of a stolen vehicle near the victim's restaurant in Takoma Park, police said. Police said they think her silver SUV was parked outside her restaurant, and the robbers used the keys they stole from her to take the vehicle.

On Feb. 16, a woman who owns a carryout restaurant in Silver Spring was rear-ended while she was driving in the 1800 block of Briggs Road just before 9 p.m.

When she got out of her vehicle, two males got out of the vehicle hit hers. One of the males threw her to the ground, police said.

One male pointed a handgun at the victim, and the other stole her purse from her vehicle, which had cash. The males then fled in a silver SUV.

Police said that the next day, the Takoma Park restaurant owner's vehicle was recovered unoccupied near the area of the second robbery.

Police noted in the press release that both business owners are Asian, but police spokeswoman Sgt. Rebecca Innocenti told Bethesda Beat on Friday that there is “no evidence” the robberies are hate-based or bias-based.

“We believe they were targeted because they were carrying proceeds from the businesses,” she said.

Innocenti declined to identify the restaurants where the victims worked, so the owners are not identified.

Police are asking anyone with information to call them at 240-773-5070.

Police made the following suggestions for business owners to help prevent robberies:

- Remain alert and take note of suspicious people or vehicles, especially during opening and closing times
- Try to have two employees open and close the business
- Try to use the most visible entrance, and avoid back and secluded entrances
- Make bank deposits during the day
- Don't carry cash out of the business or advertise that you are carrying a deposit
- If you feel like you are being followed or see someone suspicious, call police
- Avoid using the same route to get to and from work



'They hit me in the head and put me on the ground' | Montgomery County restaurant owner followed home, robbed

Author: Matthew Torres

Published: 6:54 PM EST February 19, 2021

Updated: 7:16 PM EST February 19, 2021

SILVER SPRING, Md. — Investigators with the Montgomery County Police Department are warning small business owners to be careful of their surroundings after a third robbery targeting restaurant owners who were on their way home.

Police said a couple who left their restaurant in Hyattsville drove to their home in Fairland on Thursday night where two men approached them and robbed them at knifepoint. The men stole a purse that contained money made from the business.

Detectives are determining if this recent incident had the same suspects who were involved in two related robberies near the Silver Spring area.

"It's obviously concerning that we have individuals targeting business owners who are leaving their business and going home," Ofc. Rick Goodale told WUSA9.

The first robbery happened in early January in Wheaton. The victim said she had just gotten home after working at her restaurant in Takoma Park when she was approached by three men. One of the men hit her on the head and stole her purse, which had cash from her restaurant business and her car keys inside.

When a man rushed to help the woman, police say that man had a gun pointed at him, and his wallet stolen.

About a month later, officers were called to the woman's restaurant in Takoma Park. Someone had stolen her silver SUV while she was working. Investigators believe whoever took the woman's car keys came back to steal her car.

More than a week later, police responded to another reported robbery in the 1800 block of Briggs Road. The woman who was robbed told police she was driving home from her restaurant in Silver Spring when she was rear-ended by a silver SUV.

The woman told officers that when she got out of her car to inspect the damage, two men got out of the SUV and threw her to the ground. One of the men pointed a gun at her, while the other went into her vehicle and stole her purse, which also included proceeds from her restaurant business.

The two men left in the silver SUV. Police say the first victim's stolen SUV was found the next day, empty, near the area of the second robbery.

WUSA9 spoke to the second victim who owns a Chinese carryout restaurant on New Hampshire Avenue. She didn't want to reveal her identity out of safety but described the moment she knew something was wrong.

The woman said she left work early because she was feeling sick. She thought at first it was an accident and remembered the suspects were even polite. However, it quickly turned when they got closer to her.

"They hit my head and then put me on the ground. I was dizzy at the time and it was scary. They came to me and said if I didn't give them money, then they will kill me and will shoot me and I was scared," she told WUSA9.

She said they got away in \$200 in cash.

Even though the first two victims were Asian American, investigators say it appears these cases were not racially motivated. The recent victims were owners of a Hispanic business.

However, there's been a concerning trend of Asian-owned businesses or elders being attacked since the start of COVID-19.

MCP offers the following robbery prevention tips for business owners:

- Employees and employers should remain alert and observant. Take note of suspicious persons or vehicles around the business, especially at opening and closing times.
- Try to have at least two employees open/close the business, especially if it is dark.
- Try to use the most visible entrance to the business and avoid back/secluded entrances when opening/closing the business.

Bank Deposit Procedures

- Do not advertise that you are carrying the bank deposit.
- Make deposits during daylight hours and go directly to the bank.
- Try not to carry cash out of your business.
- Stay alert and trust your instincts. If you see suspicious people loitering near you or your vehicle do not approach or confront them. Call police.
- Do not always travel the same routes to and from work. Be observant and check often to see if you are being followed. Call the police if necessary.

Anyone with information about these robberies is asked to call the Major Crimes Division at 240-773- 5070. For those who wish to remain anonymous, Crime Solvers of Montgomery County is offering a reward of up to \$10,000 for any information that leads to the arrest of the suspect(s).



Montgomery County Police investigate third robbery of business owners

by: [Timothy Young](#)

Posted: Feb 19, 2021 / 11:28 PM EST / Updated: Feb 19, 2021 / 11:28 PM EST

SILVER SPRING, Md (WDVM) – Montgomery County Police report two business owners were robbed Thursday evening, which could possibly be connected to two other robberies which occurred February 7 and February 16.

Police say the owners of a restaurant in Hyatsville, drove to their home in Fairland when they were approached by two Hispanic males.

The men displayed a knife and stole a purse which contained proceeds from the restaurant.

“We want employees, employers to be vigilant and observe any suspicious activity,” MCPD Spokesperson Rebecca Innocenti said. “Certainly call police if you observe a vehicle or person and you believe them to be suspicious and you don’t feel comfortable exiting your business.”

Anyone with information on these three robberies is encouraged to contact the local authorities.



FEBRUARY 19, 2021 | BY [STAFF WRITER](#)

TWO LOCAL BUSINESS OWNERS ROBBED; POLICE BELIEVE VICTIMS WERE FOLLOWED HOME

Montgomery County Police are investigating two robberies that involved business owners who both have restaurants in the Silver Spring/Takoma Park area. Detectives believe the crimes are related.

Investigators say the suspects followed the victims home before robbing them of cash.

On Jan. 7, officers responded to a robbery at a residence in the Wheaton area shortly before 11:00 p.m. Investigators learned that the female victim, an owner of a takeout restaurant in Takoma Park, arrived at her house and was approached by three black male suspects as she described them.

An MCPD press release states that one of the suspects hit the victim on the head and stole her purse, including cash and her vehicle keys. Authorities say a male witness who came to the victim's aid was also robbed at gunpoint of his wallet before the three suspects fled in a vehicle.

On Feb. 7, shortly after 11:03 p.m., officers responded to the report of a stolen vehicle at the robbery victim's restaurant in Takoma Park. The victim told authorities that her silver SUV, which was parked outside of her restaurant, was gone. Investigators believe that the suspects later used the vehicle keys stolen during the Jan. 7 robbery to steal the victim's vehicle.

Days later, on Feb. 16, shortly before 9:00 p.m., officers responded to the report of a robbery on the 1800 block of Briggs Road in the Wheaton area. According to an MCPD press release, the female victim in this case was driving from her carryout restaurant in Silver Spring to her home when she was rear-ended by another vehicle.

According to police, when she got out of her vehicle to check on the other vehicle's damage, two males, described as Hispanic, threw her to the ground. While one suspect pointed a handgun at the victim, the other suspect went into her vehicle and stole her purse which contained cash. The suspects fled in a silver SUV.

According to detectives, the next day, the stolen silver SUV from the first robbery was recovered unoccupied in the area of the second robbery.

Police also noted in a press release that both business owners are Asian. However, the victims' ethnicity being a motive for the crime was not alluded to by authorities.

Anyone with information about these robberies is asked to call the Major Crimes Division at 240-773- 5070. For those who wish to remain anonymous, Crime Solvers of Montgomery County is offering a reward of up to \$10,000 for any information that leads to an arrest. Anonymous tipsters can call Crime Solvers of Montgomery County toll-free at 1-866-411-TIPS (8477) or submit a tip online or via the P3 Tips app.

Montgomery County Police also shared some robbery prevention tips for local business owners:

- Employees and employers should remain alert and observant.
- Take note of suspicious persons or vehicles around the business, especially at opening and closing time.
- Try to have at least two employees open/close the business, especially if it is dark.
- Try to use the most visible entrance to the business and avoid back/secluded entrances when opening/closing the business.



Violent armed robbers target 2 separate Asian business owners in Montgomery County, police say

By FOX 5 Digital Team

Published February 19, 2021

TAKOMA PARK, Md. (FOX 5 DC) - [Montgomery County](#) police detectives are investigating two separate armed robberies of Asian business owners that happened in the [Takoma Park/Silver Spring](#) area.

Investigators believe that the suspects followed both of the victims from their businesses to their homes in an effort to rob them of money from their businesses. They also believe both incidents may be related.

According to police, officers responded to a home in the 4th District on January 7 at around 10:57 p.m. after receiving a report of a robbery that had just occurred.

A woman, who is the owner of a takeout restaurant in Takoma Park, had just arrived at her house and told police she was approached by three Black male suspects. The woman says one of the suspects hit her on her head and stole her purse, which included cash from her business, and the keys to her vehicle.

When a man who witnessed the robbery came to the woman's aid, police say one of the suspects pointed a handgun at him and robbed him of his wallet.

Police say the three suspects then fled the area in a vehicle.

On Feb. 7, at around 11:03 p.m., officers responded to the woman's restaurant in Takoma Park after receiving a report of a stolen vehicle. Police say that during the day, an unknown suspect had stolen her silver SUV, which they say was parked outside of her restaurant.

Investigators say it is "probable that the vehicle keys stolen during the robbery [on Jan. 7] were later used to steal the victim's vehicle."

This week, on Feb. 16 at around 8:59 p.m., police say officers responded to a report of a robbery that happened in the 1800 block of Briggs Road.

A woman was driving from her carryout restaurant in Silver Spring to her home when she was rear-ended by a vehicle. Police say when the woman got out of her car to check on the damage, the occupants from the other vehicle – two men who she described as Hispanic – got out of the car they were in and threw her to the ground.

When one of the suspects reportedly pointed a handgun at the woman, police say the other suspect went into her vehicle and stole her purse, which contain money from her business. The suspects then fled the scene in a silver SUV.

Police say, the next day, the vehicle stolen from the first woman was recovered unoccupied in an area near the second robbery.

If you have any information about these robberies, call police at 240-773-5070. Anonymous tipsters can call Crime Solvers of Montgomery County toll-free at 1-866-411-TIPS (8477).



Police search for suspects who robbed Montgomery County business owners

by Kristen Schneider
Friday, February 19th 2021

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, Md. (ABC7) — Police in Montgomery County are searching for at least two suspects after three robberies targeting business owners.

According to the Montgomery County Police Department, the first incident happened January 7 in Takoma Park. The victim, the owner of a takeout restaurant, told authorities three Black men approached her when she got home from work. One suspect hit her over the head before stealing her purse.

When a witness tried to help the victim, a suspect threatened him with a gun. The three drove off in another car.

Police would respond to the victim's restaurant a month later; authorities said the suspects used the keys from the victim's purse to go to the restaurant and steal her car.

The department said the second robbery happened February 16; a carryout restaurant owner called police after she was robbed while driving home from work. The victim told authorities she was rear-ended in the 1800 block of Briggs Road. When the victim got out, two Hispanic men jumped out of their vehicle and threw her to the ground. One suspect held her at gunpoint while the other grabbed her purse from her car. The two then drove off.

Authorities later found the first victim's car near the second robbery location. The department said both businesses involved are Asian-owned.

On Friday, the department said they are investigating if a third robbery is also related. Officers responded to the Fairland area of Silver Spring after a man and a woman claimed they were

robbed. The two drove home from their Hyattsville restaurant and were attacked by two men, who the victims described as Hispanic. The men stole the woman's purse before fleeing.

The department said they don't believe the crimes are racially-motivated; authorities told ABC7 they think business proceeds are the target.

Anyone with information on this should call (240) 773- 5070.



FEBRUARY 19, 2021 | BY [JORDAN LINDSAY](#)

MCPD CHIEF MARCUS JONES: 'BRIDGING THAT GAP BETWEEN COMMUNITY AND POLICE IS IMPORTANT'

After more than three decades of dedicated service to the Montgomery County Police Department, Marcus Jones was elevated to Chief of Police [in Nov. 2019](#) taking over for Tom Manger who retired after leading the force for 15 years.

Jones, who has been with MCPD since 1985, said his role as the Chief is an 'honor.'

"Some of the massive achievements that I've actually made have been relationships with many members of our community- particularly members of the African American community," Chief Jones said during a recent interview with MyMCM.

During Black History Month, MyMCM has been profiling members of the community who have made an impact on Montgomery County.

We spoke to Chief Jones about his journey, his contributions to the community, and his legacy.

Jones told MyMCM he's proud of many accomplishments since taking over the department including putting together a more diverse team of assistant chiefs and executive staff.

He said some of his most challenging moments were police-involved shootings – some of which were fatal.

"We value life and don't want to see those things happen...it's not something we strive to do," said Chief Jones.

When asked about his legacy, Chief Jones replied, "I would like to leave the Department better than I found it and hope to inspire others to always reach for their highest goal and believe their work is for the betterment of all mankind."

Police search for robbers targeting Montgomery Co. business owners

[Mike Murillo](#) | [@MikeMurilloWTOP](#)

February 20, 2021, 2:49 AM

Business owners are being urged to be on high alert in Montgomery County, Maryland, after police suspect at least one group of armed robbers are targeting restaurant owners.

Montgomery County police said since early January, three cases ended with owners being robbed at gunpoint or knifepoint in Silver Spring and Takoma Park.

"It appears these suspects are watching these business owners exit their place of business and then following them home," Montgomery County police spokeswoman Cpl. Rebecca Innocenti said.

The first case happened on Jan. 1, just before 11 p.m. Detectives said a woman who had just left her Takoma Park takeout restaurant arrived home and was approached by three men. The woman told police one of the men hit her on the head and stole her purse. Inside her purse were business proceeds and car keys.

A man who came to help the woman said he was robbed of his wallet at gunpoint as well, according to police.

Police believe the same suspects returned to the victim's restaurant precisely a month later, on Feb. 7, and stole her silver SUV.

Days later, on Feb. 16, that stolen vehicle was used in the robbery of a second victim, police said.

Detectives said the SUV rear-ended a female victim heading home from a Silver Spring takeout restaurant at around 9 p.m. When the woman got out to check the damage, she told police two men got out of the vehicle; and while one threw her to the ground and held her at gunpoint, the other went into her car and stole her purse. It contained money from her business. The robbers then drove off in a silver SUV.

"We believe those are connected based on the vehicle that was used," Innocenti said.

The stolen SUV was found by police, abandoned the following day.

Innocenti said the third case happened just after 6 p.m. Thursday. In that case, a man and woman left the restaurant they owned in Hyattsville and, according to police, were followed to their home in the Fairland area of Silver Spring.

The Spanish-speaking owners told detectives that two young men got out of a dark-colored, four-door car and demanded the woman's purse at knifepoint in Spanish. The suspects took it and then drove off. Inside the woman's purse was cash from their business.

While the case is similar to the first two, investigators haven't officially linked all three together yet.

As they search for those responsible, Innocenti said the police department urges business owners to examine their procedures for carrying cash out of their businesses.

She said owners should also be extra vigilant, especially when leaving, by looking for suspicious cars or people near their businesses.

"If something doesn't feel right, if a vehicle or person doesn't look to be in the right place, we need you to call the police and have them come check it out," Innocenti said.

The police department is providing these tips for business owners.

Robbery prevention tips

- Employees and employers should remain alert and observant. Take note of suspicious persons or vehicles around the business, especially at opening and closing time.
- Try to have at least two employees open/close the business, especially if it is dark.
- Try to use the most visible entrance to the business and avoid back or secluded entrances when opening/closing the business.

Bank deposit procedures

- Do not advertise that you are carrying the bank deposit.
- Make deposits during the daylight hours, and go directly to the bank.
- Try not to carry cash out of your business.
- Stay alert and trust your instincts. If you see suspicious people loitering near you or your vehicle do not approach or confront them. Call police.
- Do not always travel the same routes to and from work. Be observant and check often to see if you are being followed. Call police if necessary.

Also, if you notice someone following you, Innocenti said the best advice is to keep driving and call 911.

Anyone with information on any of the robberies is encouraged to contact Montgomery County Police at 240-773- 5070.

Anonymous tips can be made to Crime Solvers of Montgomery County [online](#) or by calling 1-866-411-TIPS (8477).

Montgomery County inmate died in ‘apparent suicide’

BY CAITLYNN PEETZ [FOLLOW @CAITLYNNPEETZ14](#) FEBRUARY 20, 2021 | 8:36 PM

An inmate at the Montgomery County Correctional Facility died on Friday in an “apparent suicide,” according to police.

At approximately 7 p.m. on Friday, officers at the jail in Boyds found 42-year-old Anthony Bernard Clair unresponsive during a routine “security round,” Montgomery County police wrote in a press release Saturday.

Clair was pronounced dead at the jail.

Police did not elaborate on Clair’s cause of death.

The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner in Baltimore will conduct an autopsy.

Police did not say why Clair was an inmate at the jail.

Online court records detail a criminal history dating to 1998, including theft, drug, burglary and assault charges.

Most recently, on Jan. 27, Clair was sentenced to three years of probation for possessing drugs with the intent to distribute and possessing a loaded handgun in a vehicle, according to court records.

On Feb. 16, an arrest warrant was issued for violating probation.

Montgomery County police looking for vehicle-dent-repair scammer in Bethesda

Published February 20, 2021



BETHESDA, Md. - [Montgomery County](#) police are looking for a suspected vehicle-dent-repair [scammer](#) operating out of commercial parking lots in the [Bethesda](#) area.

According to police, Archie Valdo Thompson, 33, has been approaching potential victims who have visible body damage on their vehicles.

They say Thompson offers to fix the damage for significantly less than repairs shops on the spot.



However, he allegedly typically leaves the vehicle without any visible repairs, if not more damaged than before.

Witnesses have told police that Thompson tries to intimidate them.

Also, two of the four victims investigators talked to told them Thompson demanded more money after he'd worked on their vehicles.

The incidents occurred between July and October 2020.

Detectives have obtained a warrant for his arrest on offenses including multiple counts of theft and malicious destruction of property, as well as operating a motor vehicle repair business without a license.

If you can help police find Thompson, or if you believe you may have been a victim in one of his scams, call police at (240) 773-6726.



FEBRUARY 20, 2021 | BY [HALLE GROSSETT](#)

POLICE CALL CENTER ASSISTED IN FOUR BABY DELIVERIES IN 2020

Police aren't trained to deliver babies, but when help is needed, the Montgomery County Police Department steps up to the plate.

Cassandra Onley, director of the emergency communications center said out of the 727,000 calls the department received last year, call center personnel was able to assist in four successful baby deliveries.

On Nov. 13, 2020, dispatcher Cameron Ivory was able to give step by step instruction to help a Montgomery County couple who was unable to make it to the hospital in time.

Baby Isabella was delivered successfully. Ivory says it will be a call he remembers forever.



Police: Man arrested after he's accused of stabbing woman near her car in Montgomery Co.

by ABC7

Sunday, February 21st 2021

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, Md. (ABC7) — A woman was stabbed near her vehicle Saturday night and a man accused in the incident has been arrested, Montgomery County Police reported Sunday.

The unidentified woman was transported to an area hospital with serious injuries.

Authorities received a call at approximately 9:54 for the report of a stabbing in the 2300 block of Arcola Avenue. Officers responded to the scene and located the victim.

Police say they're currently investigating the circumstances surrounding the incident.



FEBRUARY 21, 2021 | BY [HALLE GROSSETT](#)

INMATE DEATH AT COUNTY CORRECTIONAL FACILITY UNDER INVESTIGATION

At 7:01 p.m. on Feb. 19, 5th District officers and Fire and Rescue teams responded to a report of an unresponsive inmate at the Montgomery County Correctional Facility (MCCF) in Boyds.

Correctional staff began life-saving efforts and called for Fire and Rescue personnel. Clair was pronounced deceased at the facility.

42 year-old Anthony Bernard Clair, was found after an apparent suicide attempt during a security round check by correctional officers. No foul play is suspected.

Officers are continuing to investigate and are asking anyone with information regarding this investigation to call the Major Crimes Division at 240-773-5070.

Man assaulted, robbed in Gaithersburg apartment

BY DAN SCHERE | FEBRUARY 22, 2021 | 1:57 PM

Montgomery County police said a man was attacked and robbed in his Gaithersburg apartment this month.

Police got a call at 11:43 p.m. on Feb. 13 for a report of a home invasion in the 400 block of North Summit Ave., police said in a press release on Monday.

Police said they think a male went into the apartment through a sliding glass door in the basement, then assaulted the victim and stole property. The man was treated for his injuries at the scene, police said.

Police are asking for the public's help in the investigation, and said anyone with information should call the Major Crimes Division at 240-773-5100.

UPDATED: Founder of dog rescue organization died in house fire

BY DAN SCHERE | FEBRUARY 22, 2021 | 4:30 PM



PHOTO FROM PETE PIRINGER

This story was updated at 7:34 p.m. on Feb. 22, 2021, to include additional information about Judith Marion

A woman who founded a Rottweiler dog rescue organization died following a [house fire Sunday evening in Darnestown](#).

Judith Marion, 72, was trapped inside a home on Darnestown Road on Sunday night and later died at a hospital, spokeswoman Sgt. Rebecca Innocenti confirmed to Bethesda Beat on Monday.

Police said in a press release Monday that they are conducting a death investigation, but don't think there was any foul play.

Marion founded the NoVa Rottweiler Rescue League, a nonprofit organization that takes in Rottweiler dogs, address their health problems, and finds foster and permanent homes for them.

According to the organization's website, Marion was inspired to start the organization after buying her first Rottweiler dog. After 12 weeks, she discovered her puppy had dysplasia — a skeletal deformity that affects hip joints — and she sold her car to help raise money for surgery, the description states.

The website states that Marion and Renice Zimmerman founded another Rottweiler rescue organization in the mid-1990s called SSRR, based on the NoVa Rottweiler Rescue League.

Zimmerman could not immediately be reached for comment on Monday.

Firefighters were called to the 15000 block of Darnestown Road around 7:15 p.m. on Sunday for a house fire and rescued a woman, Fire & Rescue spokesman Pete Piringer had posted on Twitter.

Piringer wrote that the woman was taken to the hospital with injuries considered life-threatening, and later died. He did not identify the woman in his tweets.

He wrote that two of the six dogs in the house during the fire also died, while the other four were eventually rescued by animal services.

Piringer added that neighbors made multiple rescue attempts before firefighters arrived, but were unsuccessful.

Woman, 2 dogs dead after Montgomery Co. house fire

[Colleen Kelleher](#) | [@KelleherWTOP](#)
and [Luke Garrett](#) | [@luke_e_garrett](#)

February 22, 2021, 5:23 PM

A woman and two dogs died after a Sunday night house fire in Montgomery County, Maryland, that caused about \$85,000 in damage.

The county police on Monday afternoon identified her as 72-year-old Judith Marion.

The blaze in the 1 1/2-story house was first reported at about 7:15 p.m. in the 15000 block of Darnestown Road near Berryville Road.

Firefighters rescued the woman from the first floor, but she died at the hospital, according to Montgomery County Fire and Rescue spokesman Pete Piringier.

When firefighters arrived on the scene, Montgomery County Fire Chief Scott Goldstein said, they found the house heavily engulfed in fire.

Tankers had to bring water to the scene because the area is one that does not have hydrants.

It took firefighters 15 minutes to bring the fire under control.

"There was a lot of clutter, or accumulations inside that structure which made our operations a little more difficult," said Goldstein.

Firefighters rescued four other dogs.

Piringier tweeted that the cause of the fire was an "unknown malfunction or failure of an electrical component." The police said detectives are investigating Marion's death, but said they have found no evidence of foul play.

The house did not have any working smoke alarms.



Darnestown fire victim ran Rottweiler rescue organization in her home

Author: Scott Broom

Published: 5:13 PM EST February 22, 2021

Updated: 6:33 PM EST February 22, 2021

DARNESTOWN, Md. — A pioneering regional dog rescue organizer died in a house fire Sunday night in Darnestown, Maryland. [Judy Marion](#), 72, died at the hospital after being rescued from her home, according to Montgomery County police.

Heroic neighbors tried to save her, pulling her and six dogs from the burning house. Marion had dedicated her life to rescuing Rottweiler dogs, according to her friends.

"She rescued thousands of rottweilers and had a heart the size of Maryland," Howard County dog trainer Karen Decker said.

According to rescuers, the fire was reported by a passerby at about 7:15 p.m. Sunday. Authorities said neighbors attempted to rescue her by forming a bucket brigade.

One of Marion's neighbors, Neftali Martinez, told WUSA9 through an interpreter that he and other neighbors used the buckets of water in a vain attempt to get into the main level of the house where Marion and two dead dogs were eventually found. Martinez said flames raging from windows made it impossible to get inside.

Rescuers said "excessive storage" and clutter in the home made their search difficult, and the house did not have a functioning fire alarm.

Four other dogs found in steel cages in the basement of the home survived, according to Montgomery County Animal Services officers. The surviving dogs are OK and being cared for by a veterinarian at the county's animal shelter, authorities said.

According to friends, Marion had operated [NoVa Rottweiler Rescue League Incorporated](#) for more than 30 years, working to save dogs from euthanization by finding them alternative homes when owners could not meet the demands of taking care of them.

Aside from the dogs, Marion lived alone according to her neighbors.

Authorities have blamed the fire on an electrical fault.



Montgomery County Police seeking suspect in home invasion, robbery

by: [Rohan Mattu](#)

Posted: Feb 22, 2021 / 12:25 PM EST / Updated: Feb 22, 2021 / 11:25 PM EST

GAITHERSBURG, Md. (WDVM) — Montgomery County Police are seeking public assistance in locating the suspect of a Gaithersburg home invasion and robbery.

Police say they responded to a residence on the 400 block of N. Summit Avenue on Feb. 13 at 11:43 p.m. Police say a male suspect entered the victim's apartment through a sliding glass door, assaulted the victim and stole property.

Fire and rescue personnel treated the victim's injuries.

Police say the victim described the suspect as a 6-foot-3 Black man weighing around 230 pounds, wearing a face mask, gloves, and all dark clothes.

Detectives are asking anyone who has information about this incident to call the Major Crimes Division at 240-773-5100.

The Washington Post

Woman, 72, dies after fire in Montgomery County, police say

By [Martin Weil](#)

Feb. 23, 2021 at 4:16 a.m. EST

A woman died after a house fire Sunday in the 15000 block of Darnestown Road, Montgomery County police said.

They said Judith Marion, 72, died at a hospital after being rescued from the home.

The fire department said the fire started in the first-floor living room. The cause was described as an “unknown malfunction or failure of an electrical component.”

The fire was reported around 7:15 p.m., and it caused more than \$85,000 in damage, the fire department said. According to the department, two dogs died in the fire and four others were turned over to animal services personnel.

Surveillance video of thefts from vehicles in Aspen Hill area released

by: [Sylvia Mphofe](#)

Posted: Feb 22, 2021 / 11:54 AM EST / Updated: Feb 23, 2021 / 09:50 AM EST

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, Md. (WDVM) — The Montgomery County Police Department is investigating the attempted theft from a vehicle that was parked in the driveway of a residence in the area of 14000 block of Congress Drive in Aspen Hill on January 17.

Officials have released surveillance video and are asking for the public's help in identifying the male suspect pictured in the video. According to officials, the suspect is believed to have committed similar thefts from vehicles in the surrounding area around the same time period.

Additional thefts from vehicles in the Aspen Hill area from the same evening were reported to police:

- 13900 block of Congress Drive – Officials say the suspect entered the victim's vehicle, but no property stolen.
- 14000 block of Flint Rock Road – Officials say the suspect entered the victim's vehicle, but no property stolen.
- 14200 block of Brad Drive – Officials say the suspect entered six vehicles at one residence. There was property stolen from one of the six vehicles.

Anyone with information regarding these suspects or incidents is asked to call the 4th District Patrol Investigations Unit at 240-773-5476. Call Crime Solvers of Montgomery County toll-free at 1-866-411-TIPS (8477) or submit a Crime Solvers tip online or via the app, to be eligible for a reward. Crime Solvers will pay a cash reward of up to \$10,000 for any information provided that leads to the arrest or indictment of this suspect.

Man arrested and charged after stabbing woman with her children in Wheaton

by: [Rohan Mattu](#)

Posted: Feb 23, 2021 / 12:37 PM EST / Updated: Feb 23, 2021 / 12:44 PM EST



Christian Norman, courtesy MCPD

WHEATON, Md. (WDVM) — Montgomery County Police say they have arrested and charged a 32-year-old man for the stabbing of a woman who was with her children.

Police say they responded to the incident shortly before 10 p.m. Saturday outside a residence on Arcola Avenue. Police say witnesses called 911.

Police say Christian Norman, whose address is unknown, stabbed a 40-year-old woman multiple times as she was getting into a car with her children. The children were not injured. Norman then fled the scene.

The woman was transported to an area hospital and treated for lacerations and puncture wounds. Police say a folding knife was found at the scene.

Police say they found Norman five minutes after responding to the scene about a quarter-mile from the incident with blood on his shirt. Police say he was taken into custody without incident.

Norman and the woman do not know each other, police said, and he did not tell police why he stabbed the woman.

Police said Norman would not tell them how he sustained the injuries on his face.

Norman is being held without bond and is charged with first-degree assault.

Takoma Park, MD Patch

Montgomery County Department Of Police: Suspect Located And Arrested By Officers For Stabbing Victim In Wheaton

Press Release Desk, [News Partner](#)

Posted Tue, Feb 23, 2021 at 1:16 pm ET

Press release from the Montgomery County Department of Police:

Tuesday, February 23, 2021

Officers from the 4th District have arrested Christian Norman, age 32, of an unknown address, for stabbing a 40-year-old female as she and her children entered her vehicle at a residence located in Wheaton. Norman and the victim are not known to one another and Norman did not provide any information to officers about why he stabbed the victim.

On February 20 at approximately 9:54 p.m., officers and Fire and Rescue personnel responded to the report of a stabbing outside of a residence located in the 2300 block of Arcola Avenue. Officers located the victim and she was transported to a local hospital for treatment of multiple lacerations and puncture wounds. (The children were not injured). The suspect had fled the scene.

Approximately five minutes after receiving the call for service, an officer searching for the suspect located Norman, with blood on his clothing, walking in the area of a frequently used footpath about a quarter-mile from the residence. Norman was taken into custody without incident. Officers observed that Norman had injuries to his face but he would not disclose to officers how he received those injuries.

Investigation by officers determined that the victim and her children were in the process of entering her vehicle when the suspect approached the victim and stabbed her multiple times. Witnesses saw the incident and called 9-1-1. Officers located a folding knife at the scene. Norman was transported to the Central Processing Unit and was charged with first-degree assault. He is being held without bond.

Man charged with stabbing woman in Wheaton

BY DAN SCHERE | FEBRUARY 23, 2021 | 2:10 PM

Montgomery County police have charged a man with stabbing a 40-year-old woman outside a home in Wheaton.

Christian Norman, 32, stabbed the woman as she and her children were getting into a vehicle just before 10 p.m. on Saturday, police said in a press release on Tuesday.

Police said Norman approached the woman and stabbed her multiple times. Witnesses called 911, police said.

Police said the woman had multiple lacerations and puncture wounds and she was taken to the hospital. The children were not injured.

A knife was found at the scene, police said.

An officer at the scene found Norman after searching for about five minutes, police said. Norman had blood on his clothing and was near a footpath, about a quarter-mile from the home where the stabbing took place.

Police said Norman was taken into custody and had injuries on his face, but wouldn't discuss the injuries.

Norman did not know the woman he stabbed, police said.

Norman has been charged with one count of first-degree assault and is due in court March 19, according to court records. Attorney information was not listed on Tuesday.

UPDATED: MCPS employee under investigation for inappropriate sexual behavior during video link with students, said he thought camera was off

BY DAN SCHERE AND CAITLYNN PEETZ | FEBRUARY 23, 2021 | 11:33 PM

This story was updated at 10:40 a.m. Feb. 24, 2021, to include more information about the incident and at 11:50 a.m. to include more details and comments.

A teaching assistant who was seen masturbating during a video link with middle school students said he was put on administrative leave.

Marc Schack said in an interview on Wednesday morning that he did not know he had been captured on video until a Bethesda Beat reporter asked him about it.

"I thought I was logged out when class was over," he said. "I had no clue that Zoom was still on. Why would I do that? That's my job. My career. I had no clue that Zoom was on. I mean, that's just crazy behavior."

Schack has been working as a paraeducator with special education students at Shady Grove Middle School in Gaithersburg.

The incident happened on Monday during a virtual video connection. A 13-second video shows Schack look at his screen, then stand up, take a few steps away and masturbate.

During that time, his name appears on the screen as the host of the virtual link. After several seconds, another name comes up on the screen as taking over as the host.

"It was just a mistake on my part," Schack said, adding that he thought he had turned off his connection to the virtual call. "I'm only human. It was my bad."

He said he has worked for MCPS for 21 years.

Schack said the school system called him on Monday to say he was being placed on administrative leave, telling him they had “misplaced his background check file.”

“Maybe they were looking to see if I had any criminal misbehavior or anything like that,” he said.

But the district didn’t mention the video to him and he was not aware of it until Wednesday.

“I’m not a pervert or anything like that, you know,” Schack said.

He said he never meant harm to his students. “You gotta believe me on that ...,” he said. “I thought I was in the privacy of my own home. I had no clue.”

Schack confirmed to Bethesda Beat that he is a children’s performer who has a business called [Pirate Magic](#).

School district officials have let the community know that something inappropriate happened, and it was recorded and shared, but have not been specific.

In a message to community members on Tuesday, Shady Grove Principal Alana Murray wrote that, during an eighth-grade class, an employee was “seen on screen in a breakout room engaged in inappropriate behavior.”

MCPS spokeswoman Gboyinde Onijala told Bethesda Beat in a text message on Tuesday night — before Schack was interviewed and confirmed what happened — that the “behavior was sexual in nature.”

She said the employee was placed on paid administrative leave while the district investigates.

Onijala declined to comment further.

The incident was recorded and posted on social media, according to Murray’s message.

Police were notified and the incident is under investigation, the message said.

In the community message, Murray asked any students who recorded the incident and posted it on social media to delete it and “refrain from sharing with other students.”

Montgomery County police have “been made aware of a video by MCPS and we’re investigating,” Officer Rick Goodale, a spokesman for the department, said Wednesday morning.

He wouldn’t comment further about who was in the video because no one had been charged.



Suspect randomly stabbed woman in Wheaton, Montgomery County police say

By FOX 5 Digital Team

Published February 23, 2021



WHEATON, Md. - [Montgomery County](#) police have [arrested](#) a man who they say attacked and stabbed a 40-year-old woman who was with her children when she tried to get into her vehicle in [Wheaton](#) over the weekend.

Investigators say 32-year-old Christian Norman had no connection to the victim, and did not provide police with a reason for the attack.

The victim was taken to a local hospital with multiple stab wounds, but the children were unharmed during the apparently random attack in the 2300 block of Arcola Avenue on Saturday night.

Police responded to the scene shortly before 10 p.m.

They found Norman on a footpath not far from the scene and arrested him.

When they found Norman, he had injuries to his face, but did not tell police how he received those injuries.

Norman is being held without bond after being charged with first-degree assault.



DC-area police see younger teens carjacking cars

By [Stephanie Ramirez](#)

Published February 23, 2021

WASHINGTON (FOX 5 DC) - DC Police Chief Robert Contee recently formed a Carjacking Task Force in response to the explosion of carjackings in the DC region over the past year. As more arrests come down, police are also seeing people as young as 16, 15 and 14-years-old be charged in these carjackings -- some suspects not even old enough to drive.

In one example, just this past weekend, D.C. police arrested two 14-year-olds and a 16-year-old for an attempted carjacking of a Lyft driver near 3rd and M Sts. NW. A police report says one of the suspects put a knife to the driver's neck and said, "give me the keys." When the driver resisted, the kids ran away, only to be caught and identified later.

D.C. police reported 345 carjackings in 2020 and at least 45 by the first week of February.

In another example, D.C. police announced the arrest of a 14-year-old and a 15-year-old back on January 24th. The two were charged with assaulting people in three different incidents – one of which, ended in a carjacking. Montgomery County Police also connected the 14 and 15-year-old to two carjacking-related incidents in Chevy Chase, where a teen suspect was reported to have punched a driver in the face, trying to carjack their vehicle.

In Montgomery County, Detective Sargent Rob Grims told FOX 5 they had 14 carjackings since the start of the year. With the help of the task force, 9 arrests were made. More than half of those arrests so far (5 arrests) involve those 16-years-old and younger – according to Grims.

"I can just say that when you have people out of school with a lot more time on their hands, I think that's a large part of it," said Grims, who also mentioned the financial hardship many families are going through in this pandemic.

Young people need to be engaged, that's just the bottom line. They need to be engaged in proactive developmental activities with caring adults, that's what school is. It's certainly a factor," said DC Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services Director, Clinton Lacey.

There have also been other serious crimes in recent weeks involving young people. FOX 5 previously reported on a 14-year-old boy charged as an adult for the stabbing of a taxi driver in Prince George's County. DC Police recently arrested a 14-year-old girl for using a dating app to rob people.

When it comes to carjackings, an FBI agent told FOX 5 on Monday, they are essentially dealing with three "buckets" of people engaging in this behavior. One has to do with the increase in deliveries during the pandemic and people targeting those drivers/cars to do things like joy ride. They do not have a plan.

"The second and more concerning aspects to a lot of these carjacking that the car is then utilized in another crime, such as a drive-by shooting or drive-by robbery. And then the third aspect, third bucket would be those individuals that are tasked to acquire a certain type of vehicle for the purposes for going to a chop shop," FBI Assistant Special Agent Robert Bornstein.

Bornstein emphasized how serious the charges are in these crimes and says there are multiple suspects, over 18-years-old, who crashed and are now being prosecuted through federal court for their crimes.

Going through D.C. police reports announcing carjacking arrests since January 1, 2021, there were at least 16 arrests made involving carjackings (one was an additional arrest for an incident over the summer). Of the 16 arrests involving a carjacking charge, at least 10 suspects were under the age of 18.

1. (Assault on police armed, 2 armed carjackings, armed robbery, 2 thefts) On Wednesday, January 6, 2021, 30-year-old Xavier Higgins, of no fixed address, was arrested and charged with the above offenses.

2. (3 armed carjackings, receiving stolen property) On Wednesday, January 6, 2021, 18-year-old Zharmel Blount, of Southeast, DC, was arrested for an Unarmed Carjacking offense that occurred on Wednesday, January 6, 2021, in the 4000 block of Georgia Avenue, Northwest. CCN 21-002-768
3. (3 armed carjackings & receiving stolen property) On Tuesday, January 12, 2021, 18-year-old James Borum, of Southeast, DC, was arrested and charged with the above offenses.
4. (2 armed carjackings & 3 armed robberies) On Thursday, January 21, 2021, pursuant to a DC Superior Court custody order, a 14-year-old juvenile male, of Southeast, DC, was arrested and charged with the above offenses.
5. (Half St. SE) On Saturday, January 23, 2021, a 16-year-old juvenile male, of Southeast, DC, was arrested and charged with Armed Carjacking.
6. (Pennsylvania Ave. SE) On Tuesday, February 2, 2021, pursuant to a DC Superior Court arrest warrant, 23-year-old James Green, of Southeast, DC, was arrested and charged with Armed Carjacking (Gun).
7. (Robbery Brooks St. NE, unarmed carjacking Jefferson St. NW & unauthorized use of vehicle Locust Rd. NW) On Thursday, February 4, 2021, a 16-year-old juvenile male, of Northwest, DC, and a 15-year-old juvenile male, of Northeast, DC, were arrested and charged with the above offenses.
8. (Stolen auto 18th St. NW, robbery (force & violence) 9th St. NE, carjacking U St. NW) On Thursday, February 4, 2021, a 14-year-old juvenile female, of Northeast, DC, and a 15-year-old juvenile male, of Northwest, DC, were arrested and charged with the above offenses.
9. (Dating app suspect - 2 armed robberies & assault with dangerous weapon) On Tuesday, February 9, 2021, a 14-year-old juvenile female, of Northeast, DC, was arrested and charged with two counts of Armed Robbery (Gun) and Assault with a Dangerous Weapon (Gun).

10. (Additional arrest to July 28th, Piece St. Armed Carjacking) On Thursday, February 11, 2021, pursuant to a DC Superior Court arrest warrant, 20-year-old Damian Lea, of Northeast, DC, was arrested and charged with Armed Carjacking (Gun).

11. (2nd St. SE) On Wednesday, February 17, 2021, a 16-year-old juvenile female, of Southwest, DC, was arrested and charged with Armed Carjacking (Gun).

12. (49th St. NE) On Friday, February 19, 2021, 26-year-old Lawrence Cummings, of Northeast, DC, was arrested and charged with Unarmed Carjacking.

13. (M St. SW) On Saturday, February 20, 2021, two 14-year-old juvenile males, of Southeast, DC, were arrested and charged with Carjacking and Robbery. Additionally, a 16-year-old juvenile male, of Northeast, DC, was arrested and charged with Carjacking.

Kensington, MD Patch

Montgomery County Department Of Police: Detectives Investigate Six Commercial Burglaries In Briggs Chaney Area Committed By Same Suspect

Press Release Desk, News Partner

Posted Wed, Feb 24, 2021 at 3:53 pm ET

Press release from the Montgomery County Department of Police:

Wednesday, February 24, 2021

Detectives from the Montgomery County Police – 3rd District Investigative Section continue to investigate the November 3, 2020 burglaries of six businesses that occurred in the Briggs Chaney area. Five of those businesses are located in the Briggs Chaney Marketplace on Outlet Drive. Investigators followed tips at that time but have exhausted leads. Detectives are releasing surveillance video of the suspect from two of these burglaries and are asking anyone with information about the suspect or these burglaries to come forward to the Police Department.

Detectives from the Montgomery County Police – 3rd District Investigative Section continue to investigate the November 3, 2020 burglaries of six businesses that occurred in the Briggs Chaney area. Five of those businesses are located in the Briggs Chaney Marketplace on Outlet Drive. Investigators followed tips at that time but have exhausted leads. Detectives are releasing surveillance video of the suspect from two of these burglaries and are asking anyone with information about the suspect or these burglaries to come forward to the Police Department. The investigation by detectives determined that on November 3, 2020, between 2:20 a.m. and 7:00 a.m., the suspect forced entry into the following businesses and stole property: * Briggs Chaney Deli - Located at 13832 Outlet Drive. * Ross Dress for Less – Located at 13855 Outlet Drive.

* Global Food and MoneyGram – Both located at 13814 Outlet Drive. (surveillance video provided)

* Global Food and MoneyGram – Both located at 13814 Outlet Drive. (surveillance video provided) * Karen's Seafood – Located at 13843 Outlet Drive. * Don Ramon restaurant – Located at 13816 old Columbia Pike. (surveillance video provided) Anyone with information about this suspect or these burglaries is asked to call the 3rd District Investigative Section at 240-773-6870. Those who wish to remain anonymous may contact Crime Solvers by phone: 1-866-411-TIPS (8477), online, or via the Crime Solvers app.

This press release was produced by [the Montgomery County Department of Police](#). The views expressed here are the author's own.

Montgomery Co. school employee seen engaged in sexual behavior during online class

[Michelle Basch](#) | [@MBaschWTOP](#)

February 24, 2021, 6:47 PM

An employee at a Montgomery County, Maryland, middle school is on administrative leave because of what they were seen doing during an online class earlier this week.

The principal of Shady Grove Middle School in Gaithersburg described what happened Monday as a "serious incident."

Montgomery County Public Schools spokeswoman Gboyinde Onijala told WTOP in an email that the behavior was sexual in nature.

In a letter to parents, principal Alana Murray said that during an eighth-grade virtual class, a staff member was seen on screen acting inappropriately in a breakout room.

Murray's letter also said that the incident was recorded and posted on social media. She is asking any students who posted the footage to their accounts to remove it:

It was brought to our attention that a staff member was seen on screen in a breakout room engaged in inappropriate behavior. This incident was recorded and posted on social media. School administration quickly reported this incident to law enforcement and MCPS central office. This matter is under investigation. We ask that any student who may have this video posted on social media platforms take down the content and refrain from sharing with other students.

Officer Rick Goodale with Montgomery County police told WTOP that his department is investigating.

Murray added in her letter, "We want to thank the students and community members who reported this incident and will provide any updates as necessary once we receive further guidance."

Opinion: Montgomery County Needs State Use of Force Law for Police

By **Guest Commentary** - February 25, 2021

Police in Montgomery County have killed one of our neighbors, again.

Less than one month after Gaithersburg City Police officers chased down and killed Kwamena Ocran, and nine months since Montgomery County Police killed Finan Berhe, who was in the throes of a mental health crisis, a Sheriff's deputy has killed Kevin Costlow, a man who was also in crisis and was wielding a tree branch when he was shot and killed.

These killings are deplorable and demonstrate the need for change at both the state and local levels in three areas.

First, these killings were committed by officers from three of the many different law enforcement agencies operating in Montgomery County under a range of different governing authorities.

This is why we support the statewide use of force standard in Maryland, [House Bill 139](#) and [Senate Bill 626](#).

In every law enforcement agency in Montgomery County and throughout Maryland, the law must require officers to de-escalate before using force, and to use deadly force only when necessary as a last resort. Maryland is one of a small number of states with no statewide standard for the use of force and it must act to adopt one now.

Second, the evidence is overwhelming that we must provide people in crisis with professional mental health support rather than a police response. Since the police killing of Robert White in Silver Spring in 2018, we have advocated for a program like Denver's that has successfully responded to hundreds of calls with trained social workers, calls that would once have elicited police response. The continued killing of our neighbors in crisis reveals that the county must move forward now to remove mental health from the purview of police; we cannot wait any longer.

Third, County Executive Marc Elrich must tell us how and when he will implement the recommendations of his Taskforce on Reimagining Public Safety. The Taskforce recommends mental health alternatives and Crisis Intervention Training for all officers. In addition, it recommends the county study whether law enforcement officers need to carry guns at all times and that officers report every time they draw their firearm. This year's killings illustrate why this is necessary.

County leadership must also implement the task force's recommendations to reduce the overall size and footprint of our police force. This includes reducing the number of patrol officers in certain districts, moving traffic enforcement to automated systems, ending MCPD's practice of banning people from retail establishments, and decriminalizing minor offenses. The report further recommends terminating the School Resource Officer Program and removing the money for that program from MCPD's budget and allocating it to non law-enforcement student supports.

These ideas are not pipe dreams; they are pragmatic reforms. Just 4% of Montgomery County Police time is spent on violent crime, and only 35% of their time is spent on all crimes. On the other hand, 65% of police time in this county is spent on traffic enforcement, non-criminal calls for mental health and other assistance, and self-promoting "community policing" activities. We can easily pay for proactive resources to help people in crisis — as well as prevent future killings — if we divest the police department of the funds it receives to do work it should not do.

We have not gone a single year without police killing a county resident since 2017, and 2021 is off to a terrible start. While Kevin Costlow was white, these murders have disproportionately been of Black residents. We mourn the loss of yet another life and demand our county and state officials act now to stop our government from killing our neighbors.

— DANIELLE BLOCKER, CARLEAN PONDER, JOANNA SILVER AND KATIE STAUSS

Danielle Blocker is the executive director of Young People for Progress; Carlean Ponder is a member of the Montgomery County Chapter of the ACLU of Maryland; Joanna Silver is a member of Jews United for Justice; and Katie Stauss is a member of Takoma Park Mobilization.

The authors represent these organizations in the Silver Spring Justice Coalition and the Montgomery County Defund/Invest Coalition, and served on the Montgomery County Executive's Taskforce on Reimagining Public Safety.